

approximately 100,000 new cases of obstetric fistula among young women every year.

Women around the world look to the United States for leadership and assistance in advancing women's rights in their communities. We should be doing more to help them. In recognition of this need, I plan to reintroduce the International Women's Freedom Act, which is modeled after the successful International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA). IRFA established the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, which over the past 7 years, has drawn attention to the importance of protecting religious freedom around the world. The Commission's annual report and recommendations has had an impact on the protection of human rights around the world, with many of the Commission's recommendations being taken up by the President, the Congress, and the State Department.

The International Women's Freedom Act will, like IRFA, establish an office in the State Department and a U.S. Commission, which will focus on International Women's Rights. The Commission will draft an annual report on violations of women's human rights abroad and the legislation will force the U.S. to consider these violations when determining foreign policy.

There are many women who we salute on International Women's Day for breaking barriers. But let us also acknowledge the women who face hurdles which seem insurmountable. Those women who live in desperate poverty, who don't have basic health care, and who fear violence from their own family members are the women we need to think about today.

As a superpower, as a country of compassionate concerned citizens, as human beings; let's commit ourselves to doing something about the state of the world's most vulnerable women as we celebrate International Women's Day.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEL NORTE COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the County of Del Norte, the very northwest corner of the 1st Congressional District and the State of California.

Del Norte County features an extraordinary landscape that includes majestic redwoods and spectacular coastline. It is home to Redwood National and State Parks, the sparkling waters of the wild and scenic Smith River and the Smith River National Recreation Area. The residents are extraordinary and rugged individuals, who work hard and who value the very special place in which they live.

The county was created by the California Legislature in 1857, which transformed a portion of former Klamath County, California, into a new political entity known as Del Norte County.

The Yurok and Tolowa peoples have called the region home for thousands of years and continue to play a vital role in the life of Del Norte County. Their skills in woodworking and

basketry were exceptional and form the basis of a thriving cultural and artistic community.

The first timber mill was brought by ship to Del Norte County in 1853, and over the next 100 plus years produced lumber that was used to build the state and realize the dreams of all Californians. The rich ocean environment has created a dynamic fishing industry and the mild climate and fertile fields of the Smith River plain grow the Nation's supply of Easter lilies. The county is blessed with two historic lighthouses, Battery Point and Point St. George. The county seat of Crescent City has the distinction of being the only city in the continental United States to be struck by a tsunami wave, on March 28, 1964. Despite the destruction of over 150 businesses, the hearty character of local residents was on display during the rapid reconstruction of the town, earning the name, "Comeback Town USA".

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the County of Del Norte on the occasion of their 150th anniversary, and congratulate the residents of Del Norte County on all that they have achieved.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NILA SPEER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Nila Speer, a member of a pioneering Las Vegas family, who passed away on February 19, 2007 at the age of 87.

Throughout her 87 years, Mrs. Speer was a dedicated member of the community and witnessed the City of Las Vegas develop into a major metropolitan area. Her civic commitment was evident in the many community organizations in which she was involved. Among the many organizations Nila was involved in were the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, of which she was a charter member, and the Mesquite Club.

Nila influenced the lives of countless young girls as director of the local Girl Scout Council and as PTA President of Mayfair Elementary School, Crestwood Elementary School and John C. Fremont Junior High School. As a politically active member of the community, Nila campaigned for numerous candidates and was most proud of her efforts for former Governor and U.S. Senator Richard Bryan. In addition to her civic work, Nila was also a devoted Sunday school teacher at the First Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and memory of Nila Speer. Her dedication to the community was commendable and the Las Vegas community will miss this significant resident.

IN RECOGNITION OF DETECTIVE JAMES METZLER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James Metzler, a devoted police officer for the Cleveland Police Depart-

ment for 25 years. Mr. Metzler is an exemplar for this community in his efforts to make Cleveland a safer and more vibrant city.

Mr. Metzler was appointed to the Cleveland Police Department on June 15, 1981. After graduating from the police academy, Mr. Metzler was assigned to Basic Patrol in the 4th District. Detective Metzler's commitment to his community shone through in his work, as he ascended the ranks. He later joined the First District Basic Patrol and eventually the First District Detective Bureau, before being dispatched to the Homicide Unit.

Police officers have the awesome responsibility of maintaining peace and order within the community. On a daily basis, they have to display courage and just decision-making. Throughout his career, Detective Metzler embraced this responsibility. He led by example and defined what it meant to wear a badge. Detective Metzler personified integrity, hard work, and dedication.

For 25 years, Detective Metzler served Cleveland with distinction, with unyielding pride, and with an abiding concern for the welfare of our community. In an age that has seen the disintegration of the community, Detective Metzler's unwavering commitment to the fabric of Cleveland has left us safer, healthier, and better equipped to face our challenges.

Madame Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring a true American hero, Detective James Metzler, and in celebrating his life of serving others and striving to make Cleveland a better place. We all owe a debt of gratitude to James Metzler.

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL LANDS RESTORATION, ENHANCEMENT, PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND INFORMATION RESOURCES ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to provide additional resources for use by the Federal land-managing agencies to restore lands damaged as a result of improper activities and to promote public education about the use of the Federal lands. My Colorado colleague, Representative TANCREDI, is again cosponsoring the legislation. I greatly appreciate his support.

The bill is based on one part of a bill introduced by Representative TANCREDI that I cosponsored in the 108th and 109th Congresses. Our purpose is to improve the ability of the land-managing agencies—the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Interior Department as well as the Forest Service in the Agriculture Department—to adequately enforce the rules that apply to uses of the lands they manage.

In the 108th Congress, Mr. TANCREDI and I worked with the Resources Committee's Chairman, Ranking Member, and other Members, to develop a substitute that included a number of improvements in the bill. The Resources Committee approved that substitute, which included provisions similar to those in the bill I am introducing today. However, after the Resources Committee completed its work,